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Doll House

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OPEN FRIDAY NIGHTS Till 9:00

LAY-A-WAY NOW FOR CHRISTMAS

Singer Furniture*
What America is coming home to!*
*a subsidiary of The Singer Company

The Ten Commandments of Christmas

1. Thou shall not leave "Christ" out of Christmas, making it Xmas. To most minds, "X" stand not for Christ, but for the algebraic unknown.

11. Thou shalt not value they gifts by their cost, for many shall signify love that is more blessed and beautiful than silver and gold.

111. Thou shalt give thyself with thy gifts. Thy love, thy personality, and thy service shall increase the value of thy gifts a hundredfold and he that receiveth it shall treasure it forever.

V1. Thou shalt not let Santa Claus take the place of Christ, lest Christmas become a fairy tale rather than a sublime reality in the spiritual realm.

V. Thou shalt not burden thy servant. The shop girl, the mail carrier and the merchant should have thy consideration.

V1. Thou shalt not neglect church. Its Christmas services are planned to help spiritualize the Christmas season for thee, thy child and thy household.

V11. Thou shalt not neglect the needy. Let thy bountiful blessings be shared with the many will go hungry and cold unless thou are generous at Christmas.

V111. Thou shalt be as a little child. Christmas is the day of the Christ Child; not until thou hast become in spirit as a little child art thou ready to enter into the Kingdom of Heaven.

1X. Thou shalt prepare thy soul for Christmas. Verily most of us spend much time and money getting gifts ready, but few seconds in preparing our souls.

X. Thou shalt give thy heart to Christ. Let thy Christmas list have Christ as the top and thy heart as the gift. In so doing, thou art as the Wise Men of old and verily thou shalt find thyself born again on Christmas Day.

Readers Note

The Times-Virginian is pleased to present its readers with this special Holiday Shopper's Guide.

Within its pages, you will find holiday craft ideas, recipes of all sorts for those big family get-togethers, general interest holiday features, and, of course, bargain gift ideas offered by our advertisers.

But we ask that our readers remember the true meaning of Christmas: take note of the "Ten Commandments of Christmas," listed at the top of this page.

Finally, the newspaper extends thanks to the Appomattox County Extension Homemakers for use of the mouth-watering recipes and delightful craft ideas listed in the Shopper's Guide.

From the Times-Virginian to the people of Appomattox County, Happy Holidays!

Celebrations

From England to China, traditions vary

Christmas in Appomattox is special to Appomattox Countians, just as it is special to Americans in small towns and large cities across the nation.

In fact, Christmas is celebrated in most of the nations of the world -- even in China, where Oriental Christians call it Sheng Dan Jieh (Holy Birth Festival).

Here's a glimpse of how the holiday is observed in some other countries around the world:

England -- The family searches the forest for a Yule Log for the fireplace. Children throw their gift list, addressed to Father Christmas, into the flames. If it's carried up the chimney by the draft, they know their requests will be fulfilled.

Ireland -- A lighted candle is placed in a window and the door is left open so the Holy Family may stop to rest on their journey to Bethlehem.

Germany -- In many homes, a young girl dresses as an angel in a white robe with golden wings and a crown. She carries a small Christmas tree.

Holland -- Children here believe that St. Nicholas rides a white horse to deliver presents on his Feast Day, celebrated on Dec. 5.

Sweden -- Christmas begins on Dec. 12, the feast day of St. Lucia. She is so admired that, to honor her, Swedish families dress the eldest daughter in a white dress with a red sash. Wearing a crown of candles, she sings carols.

Italy -- Befana is the bearer of Christmas gifts. According to legend, she was cleaning the floors when the Three Kings passed on their way to see the Christ Child. They would not wait for her to finish. So today, children believe that she rides on a broomstick trying to find and worship the Holy Infant.

Mexico -- Youngsters here love the pinata, a jug or figure filled with candy, nuts and toys. Children are blindfolded and given a stick to try and break the pinata which dangles from the ceiling.

Spain -- Spanish children fill their shoes with carrots and hay. They leave them outside on Epiphany Eve to refresh the camels of the Three Kings on their journey.

Poland -- A meal is prepared with a place left for the Christ Child. After the meal, the Star Man (usually the village priest disguised or a well-informed neighbor) quizzes the children on their catechism. Correct answers win a gift.

China -- There are many religions practiced here, including Buddhism, Taoism, Confucianism, and Christianity. In the Christian tradition, children decorate a tree with lantern lights. Children hang up stockings and hope that Sheng Dan Lao Ren (Christmas Old Man) will fill them with toys, candy and fruit.